



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

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### **JUVENILES TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL**

The County of Los Angeles will begin the first week of November transferring juveniles being held at Men's Central Jail to the California Youth Authority (CYA) facility in Norwalk.

Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen is scheduled to sign an agreement with the State on Monday, Oct. 27 to allow the transfers to proceed.

The County Board of Supervisors in July directed staff to find an alternative to housing the juveniles at the jail. Members of the community had raised concerns about the appropriateness of keeping the youths at the adult facility.

On the motion of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Board asked staff to negotiate a contract with CYA to house minors that the court deemed not appropriate for a juvenile facility, and provide to them education, recreation, social and mental health services at an augmented level than is available at the County facility.

"This transfer will provide safe, secure housing," Yaroslavsky explained, "and creates an environment in which both treatment and education can continue as the juveniles await adjudication of their cases."

The County, CYA and the City of Norwalk have met to ensure a smooth transition and to alleviate any security concerns, and the Sheriff's Department did a comprehensive security audit of the facility, which resulted in some enhancements, including installation of a high-perimeter fence and additional closed-circuit cameras.

Additional security staff will be used to ensure safe movements of juveniles to and from classrooms, during recreation times, and around the perimeter of the living unit.

With the enhancements, the City of Norwalk indicated it did not object to the transfer of the youths.

"We appreciate the support we received from the City of Norwalk," said Supervisor Don Knabe, who represents that city. "The placement of these juveniles in this existing CYA facility poses no additional risk. A majority of these Los Angeles County juveniles are in the same age range as the other CYA wards."

The contract provides that the juveniles will be segregated from the CYA ward population, and will receive a similar level of treatment, education and other services provided to existing CYA wards.

The agreement provides for a maximum of 48 juveniles from the County to be housed at CYA's Southern Youth Reception Center and Clinic, located at 13200 S. Bloomfield Ave. Currently there are 30 youths at Men's Central Jail who will be transferred.

As of Oct. 23, CYA's population at the Norwalk facility was 324 wards.

The local contract is modeled after one that CYA has with the County of Monterey. Up to 48 Monterey County juveniles who have been revoked on probation are presently housed at the El Paso de Robles Youth Correction Facility near Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County.